

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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- Approximately 400,000 to 450,000 metric tons of seed potatoes were lacking in East Germany in April 1954. No deliveries of this amount could be made because the VEAB maintained only restricted storage space for edible potatoes. Large amounts of storage potatoes froze during the winter because of improper storage and because of a shortage of straw with which to cover them. In Kreis Chemnitz, farmers were going to private homes begging for potatoes to be used for seed purposes. In Stadtkreis Dresden, edible potatoes were selling for up to 75 DME per 50 kilograms. According to a directive of the East German Council of Ministers, 125 kilograms of potatoes per person are to be made available for storage purposes in the fall of 1954. Amounts of spring potatoes to be delivered before that time vary a great deal, and negotiations are taking place between the State Secretariat for the Collection and Purchase of Agricultural Products the East German Government concerning the amount of potatoes to be made available. Fodder potatoes for pigs, which were originally to be delivered to the farmers, could not be issued at all because of the serious potato shortage.
- Because of the serious fodder situation, which was the result of the shortage of planned fodder grain imports from the USSR, it was also impossible to deliver fodder grain to farmers. Attempts to obtain fodder grain from the Satellites were ineffectual. For example, only 1,500 metric tons of fodder barley were obtained from the Balkans. Promises made by the East German Government to deliver fodder grain and fodder potatoes could not be fulfilled; hence an increase in meat production was out of the question. Pigs in nationalized pig-fattening installations, which did not die as a result of hog cholera and erysipelas (Rotlauf), were not expected to reach the weight necessary for slaughtering because of the extremely serious fodder situation. The supply of rye to the population, until the next harvest, is 80,000 tons short. This shortage was the result of the failure of the 1953 rye collection and purchase program and of insufficient imports of rye from the USSR. As a result of this, the Council of Ministers issued a directive that no more pure rye bread could be baked; rye bread must contain 25% wheat. This situation means that once more the Government

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will have to spend some 15,000,000 DME to maintain the present price of bread. Only thirty percent of the planned area to be planted with summer and winter rye can be planted, because no summer rye seed is available.

3. Difficulties also became noticeable in connection with the planned production of margarine and oils. These difficulties arose because not enough oil seeds, such as rape and poppy, were collected and purchased in 1953. On the other hand, a great deal of mustard seed, which has a low oil content, was obtained. In addition, the soybean and peanut deliveries promised by China for the first quarter of 1954 did not begin until the end of March 1954, and then were made only irregularly.
4. The legume situation continues to be deplorable. Requests of the workers, recently, for legumes could not be granted; the wholesale houses (HO) were not in a position to offer them for sale. This was the result of only about a 55% fulfillment of the 1953 collection and purchase program and insufficient imports of legumes from the USSR and Satellites.

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